



Community Fact Sheet

Boston, Massachusetts

Data Updated: 12/7/09

Cigarette Smoking

An estimated 79,394 smokers live in Boston (16.8% of adults, age 18+).

The adult smoking rate is not significantly different in Boston than statewide (16.8% in Boston compared to 16.1% statewide).

Cigarette smoking among middle age adults (age 45 to 64) is 22 percent higher in Boston (20.3%) than statewide (16.7%).

Cigarette smoking among seniors (age 65 and older) is 33 percent higher in Boston (10.9%) than statewide (8.2%).

The rate of smoking during pregnancy in Boston is 49 percent lower than for the overall state of Massachusetts (3.8% in Boston compared to 7.4% statewide).

Quitting

An estimated 99,715 of adults (21.1%) in Boston are former smokers.

51.4 percent of current smokers in Boston made a quit attempt within the past year.

MassHealth Tobacco Cessation Benefit

Since coverage of the tobacco cessation began in July 2006, 7,140 MassHealth smokers from Boston have used the benefit - an estimated 38.2% of MassHealth smokers living in Boston. Statewide, more than 75,000 MassHealth smokers (42%) have used the tobacco cessation benefit since July 2006.

QuitWorks

Health care providers referred 2,014 smokers living in Boston to the QuitWorks program to help them quit smoking. In addition, 1,956 people from Boston called the Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline to quit smoking (fiscal years 2004 to 2009).

Illegal Tobacco Sales to Minors

The rate of illegal sales to minors (those under age 18) is 37 percent lower in Boston (7.3%) compared to the state of Massachusetts (11.6%) based on data from FY 2008.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program
(617) 624-5900 www.mass.gov/dph/mtcp



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Health Effects of Smoking

Mortality from lung cancer is 10 percent higher among males in Boston compared to the state of Massachusetts.

Mortality from lung cancer is 5 percent lower among females in Boston compared to the state of Massachusetts.

The rate of hospitalizations for lung cancer is 27 percent higher among females in Boston compared to the state of Massachusetts.

The rate of hospitalizations for lung cancer is 34 percent higher among males in Boston compared to the state of Massachusetts.



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Data Sources

Smoking figures are based on data from the 2008 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Figures on smoking during pregnancy are based on 2003 to 2007 Births (Vital Records), Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Figures on quitting are based on 2008 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

MassHealth utilization of the tobacco cessation benefit was obtained from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, MassHealth agency covering fiscal years 2007 to 2009 (through April 30, 2009).

The number of referrals to the QuitWorks program and calls to the Massachusetts Smokers Helpline is based on data collected by the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program from fiscal years 2004 to 2009.

The rate of illegal sales to minors is based on compliance checks performed in Boston during FY 2008 (n=3440). The Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program funded a Board of Health in Boston to regularly monitor illegal tobacco sales to minors.

Figures on lung cancer mortality are based on 2003 to 2007 Deaths (Vital Records), Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Rates of lung cancer hospitalizations are age-adjusted and based on data from the 2002 to 2006 Uniform Hospital Discharge Data System (UHDDS) maintained by the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy.



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